

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 02942 171020Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /087 W

----- 019815

R 170932Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7499

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TATS: PINT BM

SUBJECT: REFERENDUM ON NEW STATE CONSTITUTION PROCEEDING

REF: RANGOON 2929

1. REFERENDUM ON NEW STATE CONSTITUTION PROCEEDED QUIETLY AND APPARENTLY WITHOUT INCIDENT THROUGHOUT RANGOON DECEMBER 15. VOTERS TURNED OUT EARLY, AND MOST FILLING STATIONS CLOSED BY MID-MORNING.

2. REFERENDUM OUTSIDE RANGOON WILL PROBABLY NOT BE COMPLETED FOR SOME TIME YET, SINCE VOTING IN INSECURE AREAS WILL BE HELD ON VARIOUS DATES BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER 31. ACCORDING TO PRESS, "MORE THAN HALF" BURMA'S TOWNSHIPS COMPLETED VOTING DEC. 15.

3 WHILE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY REFERENDUM COMMISSION OF OUTCOME IN RANGOON NOT YET MADE, BURMESE-LANGUAGE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY REPORTED DECEMBER 17 THAT OVER 95 PERCENT OF RANGOON DIVISION'S ELIGIBLE VOTERS CAST BALLOTS IN FAVOR OF NEW CONSTITUTION.

4. MEMBER OF LOCAL REFERENDUM SUB-COMMISSION TOLD EMBOFF HIS QUARTER VOTED 60-70 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF CONSTITUTION AND SEEMED TO FEEL RESULT SATISFACTORY. MEMBER OF POLLING COMMITTEE IN ANOTHER LOCALITY, HOWEVER, REPORTED WHILE 44 OUT OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RANGOO 02942 171020Z

113 BALLOTS WENT INTO BLACK "NO" BOX AT HIS POLLING STATION,

FINAL COUNT (WHICH WAS PERFORMED BY POLLING COMMITTEE WITHOUT PUBLIC OBSERVERS) ON ADVICE OF WARD SAC CHAIRMAN SHOWED ONLY 6 " NO" VOTES. RUMORS ALREADY CIRCULATING OF SIMILAR PRACTICES IN OTHER LOCATIONS.

5. HERETOFORE, MANY OBSERVERS HAD IMPRESSION THAT NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD BE PROMULGATED MARCH 2, 1974, TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY OF COUP, AND DATE WHEN POWER WILL BE PASSED TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, ACCORDING TO ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS. ENGLISH LANGUAGE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL DEC. 16, HOWEVER-, STATED NEW CON-

STITUTION WILL COME INTO FORCE ON DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF REFERENDUM RESULTS BY REFERENDUM COMMISSION. THIS WILL PRESUMABLY BE SOON AFTER REFERENDUM COMPLETED DECEMBER 31 AND BEFORE ELECTIONS HELD JANUARY 15-31. POSSIBLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF REFERENDUM RESULTS WILL BE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH INDEPENDENCE DAY, JANUARY 4.
LACEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RANGOO02942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731221/aaaaaoyh.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RANGOON 2929
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFERENDUM ON NEW STATE CONSTITUTION PROCEEDING
TAGS: PINT, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005